

Drawings

The drawing was received on 01/29/2009. The drawing is approved.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Ronald Kubovcik (Reg. No. 25,401) on June 15, 2009.

Claim 14 has been amended as shown below.

Claim 14. (Currently amended) A method of using a nerve regeneration-inducing tube, the nerve regeneration-inducing tube comprising: a tubular structure (A) made of a biodegradable material or bioabsorbable material including therein a sponge matrix (B) made of a biodegradable material or bioabsorbable material and/or a linear nerve inducing channel (C); and an insertion space for insertion of a nerve end formed at only one end of the tubular structure (A);

the method comprising:

adjusting a length of the nerve regeneration-inducing tube by cutting the end of ~~not having the insertion space of~~ the nerve regeneration-inducing tube which

devoid of the insertion space according to the length of the injured area of the nerve during an operation;

 suturing an end of a central nerve inserted into the insertion space for insertion of a nerve end with the tubular structure (A); and

 suturing an end of peripheral nerve with the end portion devoid of the insertion space of the tubular structure (A) by means of a bio suture.

Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: prior art of record fails to disclose or fairly suggest a combination of a method of using a nerve regeneration-inducing tube for promoting nerve regeneration according to the steps as claimed in claim 14.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TUAN V. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-5962. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, AnhTuan Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-4963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/T. V. N./
Examiner, Art Unit 3731

/Anhtuan T. Nguyen/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3731
6/19/2009